

09/761,915

the elastic portion of the tool is flexible along the portion of the length of the tool that the elastic portion projects from the rigid portion.

23. (New) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:  
the plurality of hard, fine-grains are fixed to only an exterior surface of the elastic portion of the tool adjacent the distal end of the tool.

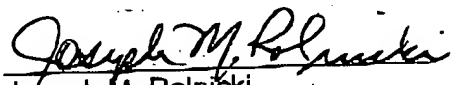
94 24. (New) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:  
the rigid portion of the tool includes a grip at the tool proximal end and a rod-shaped body attached to the grip and projecting from the grip.

25. (New) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:  
the elastic portion has a beveled surface adjacent the distal end of the tool and the hard, fine-grains are fixed only on the beveled surface.

#### REMARKS

The claims of the application have been amended herein as a result of telephone interviews conducted with the Patent Office Examiner handling the examination of the application. The courtesy of the Examiner in conducting the interviews is very much appreciated. It is respectfully submitted that with the amendments presented herein, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Joseph M. Rolnicki  
Reg. No. 32,653  
Howell & Haferkamp, L.C.  
7733 Forsyth Boulevard, Suite 1400  
St. Louis, Missouri 63105  
(314) 727-5188

September 6, 2001

09/761,915

**CLAIMS AS AMENDED**

1. (Amended) A membrane eraser used for ophthalmic surgery, comprising:  
a grip portion;  
a rod shaped body having opposite first and second ends, said first end being attached to said grip portion, said second end extending away from said grip portion;  
an elastic body having opposite proximal and distal ends and a hollow interior, said hollow interior at said proximal end receiving said second end of said rod shaped body, said distal end having a tapered tip extending away from said rod shaped body; and  
a plurality of hard, fine-grains fixed on said tapered tip of said elastic body, said fine-grains configured for removal of membrane tissue on a retina of an individual.
3. (Amended) A membrane eraser according to claim 1, wherein said hard fine-grains comprise grains having a range in diameter from 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 80  $\mu\text{m}$ .
4. (Amended) A membrane eraser according to claim 1, wherein said hard fine-grains comprise diamond particles.
6. (Amended) A membrane eraser according to claim 1, wherein said hard fine-grains are fixed by a silicone base adhesive to said tapered tip.
8. Cancelled.
9. (Amended) An ophthalmic treatment tool comprising:  
a grip;  
a rod shaped body having opposite first and second ends, said first end attached to said grip, said second end extending away from said grip;  
an elastic body attached to said second end of said rod shaped body, said elastic body having a tapered tip extending away from said rod shaped body;  
a plurality of hard, fine-grains fixed on said tapered tip of said elastic body, said fine-grains having a diameter in a range of 3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 80  $\mu\text{m}$ ; and  
said elastic body has a general cylindrical shape with opposite proximal and distal ends and a hollow interior, said proximal end is fitted onto said second end of said rod shaped body, said distal end is cut on a bevel forming said tapered tip.

09/761,915

10. (Amended) The ophthalmic treatment tool according to claim 9 wherein said rod shaped body has a slender line portion at said second end, the elastic body is fitted on said slender line portion.

12. (Amended) An ophthalmic treatment tool comprising:  
a grip;  
a rod shaped body having opposite first and second ends, said first end attached to said grip, said second end having a slender line portion extending away from said grip;  
an elastic body having a generally tubular shape with openings at opposite proximal and distal ends, said proximal end opening receiving said slender line portion therein, said second end being spaced from said slender line portion and extending to a distal end having a taper; and  
a plurality of hard, fine-grains fixed on said distal end of said elastic body.

16. Cancelled.

17. Cancelled.

18. Cancelled.

19. Cancelled.

20. Cancelled.

21. (New) An ophthalmic membrane eraser comprising:  
a tool having a length with opposite proximal and distal ends, a rigid portion of the tool adjacent the tool proximal end and an elastic, flexible portion of the tool adjacent the tool distal end, the elastic portion of the tool is attached to the rigid portion of the tool and projects from the rigid portion of the tool for a portion of the length of the tool to the tool distal end, the elastic portion of the tool has a tapered tip at the tool distal end; and  
a plurality of hard, fine-grains fixed to the elastic portion of tool, the fine-grains are fixed to the elastic portion of the tool only at the tapered tip and are absent from a remainder of the elastic portion of the tool so as not to detract from the flexibility of the remainder of the elastic portion of the tool.

09/761,915

22. (New) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:  
the elastic portion of the tool is flexible along the portion of the length of the tool  
that the elastic portion projects from the rigid portion.
23. (New) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:  
the plurality of hard, fine-grains are fixed to only an exterior surface of the elastic  
portion of the tool adjacent the distal end of the tool.
24. (New) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:  
the rigid portion of the tool includes a grip at the tool proximal end and a rod-  
shaped body attached to the grip and projecting from the grip.
25. (New) The membrane eraser of claim 21, wherein:  
the elastic portion has a beveled surface adjacent the distal end of the tool and  
the hard, fine-grains are fixed only on the beveled surface.